

## Secretary General participated in opening ceremony of 40th anniversary of IIUM

At the kind invitation of the management of the International Islamic University Malaysia, H.E. Prof. Dato Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, participated in the official opening ceremony for the fortieth anniversary of the University, on Saturday, 30 Shawal 1444H, corresponding to 20 May 2023, at its main campus in Gombak, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event was organised under the patronage of **Her Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah binti Almarhum Al-Mutawakkil AIAllah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj**, Consort of the King of Malaysia, and Constitutional Head of the University. The ceremony was opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Then Her Majesty delivered a speech on this occasion, which she described as the most crucial moment in the history of an university that has produced and continues to produce generations of distinguished leaders in various intellectual, scientific, religious, social, economic and political fields, praising what the university has done and continues to do through its programs of remarkable efforts and commendable work in the field of training generations. It is highly respected and appreciated what IIUM has accomplished during forty years of remarkable scientific achievements, whether at the local, regional, or international level. Her Majesty invited the university to move forward in improving its programs and to continue preparing a generation of young people who work to advance their society, help their people and contribute to building their homeland, and strengthen it with security, safety and stability. The opening speech was followed by a unique historical event: the awarding, for the first time in the history of the university, of an honorary doctorate to **His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah**,



King of Malaysia, in recognition of His Majesty's outstanding efforts in the field of reform and development, and in celebration of His Majesty's wisdom, deep sophistication, successful leadership and remarkable ability to resolve internal crises, as well as his well-known work in providing the means for a decent life, and his great care for parishioners at all levels. Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dato Dzulkipli Bin Abdul Razak, rector of the university, gave an overview of His Majesty's biography, accompanied by commemorative photos of some of the milestones in His Majesty's life. The ceremony ended with a royal speech by His Majesty the King, in which he expressed his thanks to the university for granting him this honorary certificate, praising the vision, mission and achievements of the university over the past forty years, and emphasizing his pride in what the university has achieved during these four decades of giving, and called on the university's leaders to redouble their efforts to promote its mission and excellence. His Majesty also called on university graduates around the world to actively participate in building their communities, serving them and putting their knowledge to work for the nation and humanity. At the end of the ceremony, the university

offered a lunch in honor of His Majesty. His Majesty took commemorative photos with the guests of honor and participants, including the Secretary General, who came to greet His Majesty and take a souvenir photo with him and asked Allah to bless him successfully. He also prayed for the King's father, the late **His Majesty Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mu'azzam Shah**, who conferred upon him the title "Dato" in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement of education in Malaysia in general and the IIUM in particular. It is noteworthy to mention that His Excellency had previously worked as a professor and deputy vice-chancellor of the university for 16 years, and had taught thousands of students of different levels and nationalities.



## Ministers of Finance, Investment and Cooperation and Governor of Guinea Central Bank visit IIFA



On the sidelines of the IDB Group annual meeting, a delegation representing the Republic of Guinea visited the Secretariat General of the Academy in Jeddah on Friday 22 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 12 May 2023. The delegation included H.E. Mr. Moussa Cissé, Minister of Finance and National Economy, Mr. Gando Barry, Minister of Infrastructure and Investment, Ms. Rose Paul, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Dr. Karamo Kaba, Governor of the Central Bank, and Mr. Ismail Nabe Advisor to the Prime Minister on Cooperation Affairs; and accompanied by Mr. Naby Soumah, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Guinea to Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Mohamed Savane, Consul General of Guinea in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed the Ministers and the accompanying delegation and thanked them for visiting the Secretariat General, despite their heavy schedule, who came to affirm their appreciation and respect for the Secretary-General and the Academy, in line with the directives of the President of Guinea, who urges officials to celebrate and cherish Guineans who hold leadership positions in international institutions outside the country, to encourage them and

to affirm the support of the Government and the Guinean people for them. The Secretary-General presented his guests with a detailed overview of the vision, mission, activities and projects of the Academy, expressing his thanks and appreciation for the continued support of the Academy by the leaders and people of the Republic of Guinea from its inception to the present day. He also expressed his aspiration to strengthen the relations of cooperation, partnership and coordination between the



Academy and the scientific, intellectual and religious institutions and centres in the Republic of Guinea. His Excellency concluded his speech by expressing the full readiness of the Academy to hold and organize scientific and intellectual seminars and conferences in Guinea, in cooperation with the Guinean authorities, on various issues aimed at promoting a culture of moderation, tolerance and coexistence, and at fighting extremism and terrorism. His Excellency Minister Gando Barry spoke on behalf of the official delegation, expressing their great pleasure to visit this great scientific

institution, and their pride in having its Secretary General as a virtuous Guinean who has already left a good impact, and a good memory among all Guineans, when he worked as Minister of Religious Affairs and Minister of International Cooperation. His Excellency also said that the Guinean people feel pride and joy in the remarkable developments that the Secretariat General of the Academy has undergone since His Excellency took over the leadership, concluded his speech by conveying the greetings of the Guinean people and government and the people, who are currently led by Colonel Mamadi Dumbia, President of the Republic, Commander of the Army, and H.E. Mr. Goumou, Prime Minister and Head of Government, to the Ministers and the entire Guinean population, praying to Allah, to protect and assist them. At the end of the meeting, Their Excellencies recorded words of praise and congratulations in the Academy's guestbook. His Excellency also briefed them on the different departments of the Academy and the library and gave them a copy of the Academy's book of



## Secretary General welcomes Executive Director of Waqf-BID in Guinea



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, welcomed H.E. Mr Mohamed Koroma, Executive Director of Waqf of Islamic Development Bank in the Republic of Guinea (Waqf-BID), and his two deputies, Mr Sadamoudou Kaba and Mr Hassan Bah, on Saturday morning 23 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 13 May 2023, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah. Mr. Koroma expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Secretary General for giving him and his delegation the opportunity to meet with him despite his heavy schedule, and commended the developments and changes

witnessed by the Secretariat General of the Academy since assuming office as Secretary General of the Academy. He also expressed the great appreciation of the Executive Direction, for the esteemed efforts of His Excellency in promoting the Waqf in Guinea, in his capacity as Chairman of the Standing Committee of this Waqf-BID, and member of its Board of Directors, and concluded his speech by hoping for more support and backing for all the projects that the Waqf intends to execute, praying Allah the Almighty to bless His Excellency and his family. For his part, the Secretary General welcomed his honourable guest and the accompanying delegation and thanked them for visiting the Academy's headquarters for the first time, praising their considerable efforts to improve the Waqf-BID in Guinea, and stressing his full readiness to provide them with all the support, attention and guidance they need, because of his conviction of the importance of the success of this endowment project in the Republic of Guinea, which will have a significant impact on raising awareness of

the importance of endowment and its social, economic and developmental role in Africa in general, and in West Africa in particular, as there is a great weakness in the area of Waqf awareness among Muslims in this region. In the world. His Excellency concluded his speech by stressing the need to move forward by supporting all the projects and initiatives undertaken by the Waqf's executive management, and then presented his guest and companion with a the book of the Academy's resolutions and recommendations



## Moroccan Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs receives Secretary General in Rabat



H.E. Prof. Ahmed Al-Tawfiq, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, received H.E. Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, on Tuesday, 26 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 16 May 2023, at the headquarters of the Ministry in Rabat, the capital. His Excellency the Minister welcomed his guest and the accompanying delegation, praising the positive transformations that have taken place in the Secretariat General of the Academy since His Excellency took office as Secretary General, and highly appreciating the great efforts made by the Academy in various fields, particularly in promoting moderation, coexistence and open-mindedness in line with the evolution of human thought. His Excellency noted in this regard the importance of the Academy as an important and reliable scientific institution, headed by an eminent scientific personality

known for his moderation and openness, combining science, experience, management and wisdom, which requires support, encouragement and special attention. His Excellency concluded his speech by renewing his welcome to His Excellency in his second homeland, the Kingdom of Morocco, and emphasized the support of Morocco, as king, government and people, to the Academy in order to help it carry out its activities and projects in the best possible way.



For his part, the Secretary General expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Minister for the kind reception and the wonderful feelings he had towards his modest person. His Excellency also expressed his great gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco for the generous support and continuous care provided to the Academy since its inception to date, praising on this occasion the great achievements of the Minister in

the field of religious affairs in Morocco, and the advancement of its institutions to the ranks of quality and perfection, in addition to the thoughtfulness, sophistication and creativity enjoyed by the Minister of Awqaf. His Excellency also praised the contributions of Moroccan scholars to the publications of the Academy, especially the Zayed Encyclopedia of Fiqh Maxims. His Excellency then referred to the Academy's aspiration to hold its next session in the Kingdom of Morocco, in cooperation with the Supreme Scientific Council, under the kind patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may Allah protect him. His Excellency the Minister welcomed this request and convened an urgent meeting with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Scientific Council to study and discuss the details of holding the session.



## Secretary General of Moroccan Supreme Scientific Council meets IIFA Secretary General in Rabat

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Yasef, Secretary General of the Moroccan Supreme Scientific Council, received H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, on Wednesday 27 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 17 May 2023, at the headquarters of the Council in Rabat. The Secretary General of the Council thanked His Excellency and the accompanying delegation for their visit, expressing his great joy to see him after the end of the pandemic, as His Excellency's last visit to the Council took place during the pandemic. On that occasion, His Eminence expressed his great satisfaction and appreciation for the various awareness-raising and educational activities carried out by His Excellency at the global level to correct stereotypes about Islam and promote a culture of moderation, tolerance, and openness. They also discussed holding the next session of the Academy in cooperation with the Supreme Scientific Council and welcomed the



idea. He promised that he would study the matter with his assistants and then inform the Secretariat General of the Academy. For his part, the Secretary General of the Academy expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to His Eminence for his warm welcome and fraternal feelings, appreciating the great efforts made by the Supreme Scientific Council in responding to the requests for fatwas and advice in the public calamities and developments of the time, and praising the wise leadership of the Supreme Council by His Eminence since its inception until today. His Excellency also expressed his gratitude to His Eminence for the Council's readiness to consider holding the next session of the Academy in Morocco, promising to provide all information related to the organisational, coordination and administrative aspects. His Excellency reiterated the Academy's thanks to His Eminence and the Council for their

contribution to the clarification, rationalisation and rectification of the Moroccan people, which has a great impact on the order of the nation and cooperation between the different segments of society, as well as on the promotion of coexistence between the different components of Moroccan society. At the end of the meeting, His Excellency submitted to His Eminence an official request for the holding of the next session of the Academy in the Kingdom of Morocco. His Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Adnan Al-Fihri, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs of the Academy, Mrs. Sarah Bint Amjad Hussein, Director of Family, Women and Children Affairs, and Mr. Saad Al-Sammar, Head of the Media Division.



## Secretary General speaks on Sharia directives for protection of human rights in trade at 21st session of IPHRC



Within the framework of the 21st Session of the OIC Independent Standing Committee on Human Rights, which started on Sunday, 01 Dhul Quidah 1444, corresponding to 21 May 2023 at the Hilton Hotel in Jeddah, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered a speech on the Islamic Perspective of Commercial Activities and the Role of Islamic Heritage in Preserving Rights and Human Rights. The following is an excerpt from His Excellency's speech: As a blessed Ummah, its early scholars and forefathers in the fields of belief, jurisprudence, principles and objectives, have left us this unifying legacy that contains everything that comes to mind, including solid foundations capable of directing financial and business calamities, addressing current developments in terms of gain and acquisition, and streamlining the forms and patterns that occur in contracts, obligations, rights and transactions. In reality, it is not a great effort or difficulty, but an assimilation of these principles, a digestion of these rules, and a commitment to the fundamentals and principles, away from all forms of betrayal. The role of our intellectual heritage in preserving rights, protecting property, encouraging productivity and celebrating creativity and innovation has been confirmed by our wise laws which consider the preservation of money as one of the legitimate objectives and five necessary interests (self, religion, offspring, money and reason) which all legislations have agreed on the need to preserve from any violation or arbitrariness; Moreover, the great law has linked the fulfillment of the commitment to a good set of acts of worship, such as zakat, awqaf, charity, wills, among others, to the necessity of its existence, availability, growth and stability. It is not surprising, therefore, that the rules that govern and control business are given special attention and a striking presence in the Qur'an and Sunnah as a guide, orientation and rationalization. It is also not surprising that these provisions include a security barrier and a good set of legal controls that make wealth and business a building block and one of the means to preserve human rights, especially the right to dignity and a decent life. These sharia controls prevent money from becoming a tool for sabotaging, eliminating or confiscating human rights. Doing business is part of the religion, like prayer, zakat, Hajj, and others, based on the word of the Almighty (Say: "Indeed, my prayer, my sacrificial rites, my life and my death are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds"); and because of the wisdom of

the noble Shari'ah, the texts contained in financial transactions are flexible texts that allow for Ijtihad and innovation in order to keep up with the developments and changes that occur in financial transactions in general and in business in particular. While Islam recognizes man's innate love for money and encourages him to seek it (It is He who has tamed the earth for you – so walk among its slopes and eat of its provisions – and to Him belongs the resurrection), it restricts this love and imposes controls on earning and owning money through business. Among the most important of these are: the pursuit of honesty and trustworthiness, which are considered two reasons for obtaining a blessing in money, and the honest and trustworthy merchant with the prophets, the truthful and the martyrs (both sellers have the option as long as they do not separate if they are honest and clear, they will be blessed in their sale, and if they conceal and lie, the blessing of their sale will be wiped out). Honest partners in the presence of God according to the Qudsi hadith: (I am the third of the two partners as long as one does not betray the other). In order to preserve these two important controls, the stern warning and the sure threat have been addressed to those who lie in financial transactions. Abu Dharr, may God be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "There are three people to whom Allah will not speak



on the Day of Resurrection, will not look at them, and will not sanctify them, and their torment will be painful. The Messenger of Allah repeated and Abu Dharr said, "May they be lost and condemned." He added, "The one who lets his garment hang below his ankles, a salesman who tries to sell his goods by means of false oaths, and the one who reminds people of what he has given them." Among the important controls that the Shari'ah obliges one to observe in business affairs is that of avoiding cheating and deception, as it has been proved in the Sunnah that a man, peace and blessings be upon him, passed a patience of food and put his hand in it, so that his fingers got wet. He said, "What is this? What is this, O owner of the food? The Messenger of God, may the prayers and peace of God be upon him, said, "Why don't you put it on the table? Why don't you put it on top of the food so that people can see it because of our cheating, then it is not from us). Among the important controls that must be observed in commercial affairs is tolerance in transactions so that the seller does not



exaggerate in the goods and the buyer does not underestimate the price (may God have mercy on the man who is tolerant if he sells, if he buys, and if necessary), and among the important controls is that of keeping away from monopolization and not exploiting the needs of the people, especially during crises and disasters, monopolizing products and goods until they are no longer needed and the need arises, and then selling them at double prices. Moreover, it is not possible to list all the controls here. Therefore, we conclude by saying that our heritage is full of events and testimonies about the commitment of Muslim merchants to respect these controls in their business activities, which had a considerable impact on the spread of Islam and the call to Islam, as well as on the acceptance of non-Muslim societies to embrace it. As their words were consistent with their actions and behavior, they were role models in their dealings with others, especially in financial transactions, which had a positive effect on spreading the tolerance, moderation and justice of Islam on earth. On this basis, the Ummah is called upon today more than ever to clarify and care for these rights through collective Ijtihad, which is represented in the present era by its largest institution, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, as an intellectual and scientific body comprising the eight schools of Islamic law followed by Muslims worldwide. Through seminars, conferences, workshops and forums aimed at raising awareness of the importance of adhering to Shariah controls in business. It is worth mentioning on this occasion that the Academy has taken an early interest in financial transactions, studying, investigating, rooting and clarifying them, studying their problems and discussing their recurring and evolving problems in order to guide and pay them so that they become free from the means of earning that confiscate human rights and infringe on his dignity, such as usury, fraud and monopoly. This great mission is evident in the resolutions and recommendations of the Academy which are considered a unanimous consensus in this era, and nearly one hundred (100) resolutions on various issues related to financial transactions to facilitate the activities of financial institutions and banks in the OIC Member States. In conclusion, we hope that this blessed session of the Commission will achieve its objectives.

## Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Justice visits the Academy



On Sunday and Monday 12- Dhul Quida 1444, corresponding to 1st of June 2023, Mr. Abdul Karim Bujradi, Secretary General of the Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights of the Kingdom of Morocco, visited the Academy, accompanied by His Excellency the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the OIC in Jeddah. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, welcomed his honored guests and thanked them for their visit, praising the continuous support and constant attention enjoyed by the Academy from the Moroccan government since its inception to the present day, and also expressed his thanks for the contributions of Moroccan scholars and their distinguished thinkers in the advancement of the Academy. He also expressed his thanks for the contributions of Moroccan scholars and their distinguished thinkers to the advancement of the Academy, particularly in the achievement of a unique, historic and grandiose scientific

work, Zayed's Encyclopedia of Fiqh, which is considered the first and largest encyclopedia of Fiqh maxims and rules in Islamic history, and comprises forty-two volumes. He then concluded his speech by expressing his warmest thanks to the Moroccan government, represented by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, for its continued

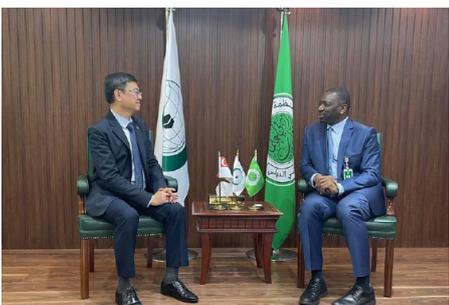


support and attention, and expressing his delight that the Kingdom of Morocco would be hosting one of the Academy's forthcoming sessions in coordination with Morocco's Supreme Scientific Council, which includes renowned and distinguished scholars. For his part, the guest expressed his deep thanks to His Excellency for his warm welcome, underlining the Kingdom of Morocco's willingness to support prestigious scientific and intellectual institutions and

centers such as the Academy, hailing the remarkable intellectual efforts undertaken by the Academy under the auspices of His Excellency's distinguished leadership, particularly with regard to correcting concepts and crystallizing an integrated and clear Islamic vision on human rights issues. Indeed, most of the visions and ideas presented on many human rights issues in general ignore and may be unaware of the moderate Islamic perspective on such issues, which makes the Academy's and other intellectual institutions' participation in various international forums very important in order to present the true Islamic stance on human rights. H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, welcomed the positive suggestions presented by his guest and renewed to him his invitation to participate in future Academy conferences and seminars, and gifted his guest the Academy's book of resolutions and recommendations, as well as other publications.



## Singapore Ambassador visits the Secretary General of the Academy



His Excellency Wong Chow Ming the Ambassador of Singapore to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited the International Islamic Fiqh Academy headquarters in Jeddah, where he was received by His Excellency Professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano the Secretary General of the Academy on Sunday 24th Shawwal 1444 H corresponding to 14th May 2023. His Excellency was accompanied by the Consul General of Singapore to Jeddah His Excellency K Chandra Kumar and Consul for Politics at the Consulate General Honourable Syfulnizar Hamid. Ambassador Ming thanked the Secretary General for the warm welcome and the opportunity accorded to them to have an audience with His Excellency the Secretary General of the Academy and expressed their delight and honour to meet Professor Sano. He explained that the purpose of the visit was meant to strengthen the already existing relationship

between the Academy and the Singapore Embassy and Consulate General respectively in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on issues of common interest particularly the promotion of cultural engagement and peaceful coexistence. On his part, His Excellency Professor Sano welcomed the Ambassador and his delegation thanking them for the visit and made reference to the visit of His Excellency Mr. Masagos



Zulkifli, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister of Ministry of Health, and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs in the Republic of Singapore, on Tuesday 17 Jumada II 1444H corresponding to 10 December 2022G, at the headquarters of the Academy's General Secretariat in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who stressed his keenness to make the visit within the framework of his country's tireless endeavor

to strengthen cooperation and coordination with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its affiliated bodies, especially the International Islamic Fiqh Academy. His Excellency the Secretary General professor Koutoub Moustapha Sano gave an overview of the Academy noting the importance of the Academy as the religious, juristic, intellectual and scientific body of the OIC to spread and promote the culture of moderation, while combating extremism and its ideology that threatens coexistence and peace. His Excellency Ambassador Ming thanked His Excellency the Secretary General for the kind hospitality and warm reception. The meeting was attended by Ms. Sara Amjad Bedwi Director of family, Women and the Elderly at the Academy and Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh Head of International Cooperation and External Relations at the Academy.



## Director General of Islamic Affairs of Malaysia visits Academy in Jeddah



In order to strengthen the cooperation and partnership with the scientific, intellectual and religious institutions of the OIC Member States, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, received H.E. Prof. Datu Hakima bint Muhammad Yusuf, Director General of Islamic Affairs, on Sunday, 01 Dhul Quida 1444, corresponding to 21 May 2023, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed his guest and the accompanying delegation and thanked them for their visit. He praised the outstanding efforts of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in general and the Department of Islamic Affairs in particular to enhance cooperation and coexistence among all segments of the Malaysian society and followers of different religions, stressing the importance of openness, tolerance, cooperation and coexistence among religions in order to meet common challenges and join efforts to fight extremism and terrorism. His Excellency gave an overview of the vision, mission, objectives and activities of the Academy. His Excellency welcomed the proposal of

the General Department of Islamic Affairs regarding the draft cooperation agreement between the Academy and the Ministry, stressing that the Academy is fully willing to sign the agreement at the place and date to be determined by the General Department of Islamic Affairs, with the aim of identifying the areas and aspects of cooperation, and that

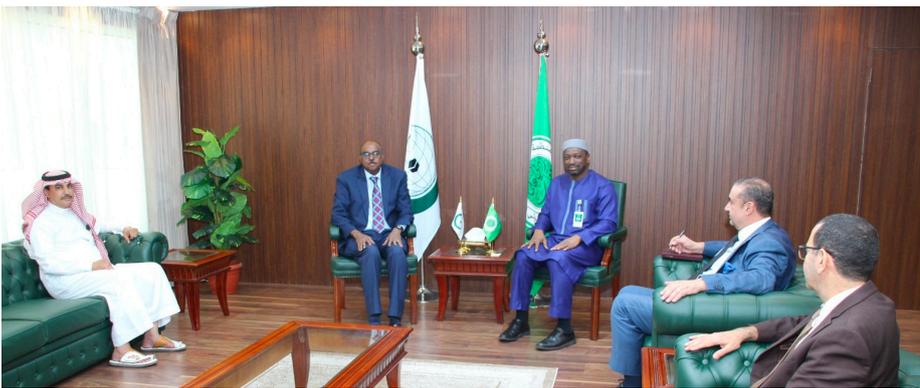


it wishes to start implementing these elements soon. His Excellency concluded his speech by looking forward to Malaysia hosting one of the sessions of the Academy in the near future. For her part, Her Excellency expressed her sincere thanks for the excellent reception accorded to her and the accompanying delegation, praising the quality activities and distinguished programs organized by the Secretariat General of the Academy, especially in the field of halal industry, correcting concepts, as well as responding to calls for fatwas in current issues and developments. In this regard, she expressed her aspiration to strengthen the ties of cooperation, coordination and partnership with the Academy, noting that the signing

of the proposed cooperation agreement will soon mark the beginning of a strategic partnership between the two institutions, as it includes many activities and programs such as joint organization of conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange of expertise, visits, publications, translation of literature, as well as providing appropriate responses to inquiries on halal issues and various vaccinations. His Excellency concluded by expressing his thanks to His Excellency for the agreement of the Academy to sign a cooperation agreement between the two institutions in the near future. The meeting ended with an exchange of souvenirs and a tour of the Academy. The meeting was attended by Mr. Muhammad Shouk, Director of Cabinet and Protocol, Mr. Mohamed Al-Fihri, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Mrs. Sarah bint Amjad Hussein, Director of Family, Women, Children and Youth Affairs at the Academy; in the presence of the Head of International Cooperation at the General Department of Islamic Affairs and the Malaysian Consul in Jeddah.



## Secretary General meets with Special Envoy and Director of OIC Office in Kabul



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, held a meeting on Wednesday, 4 Dhul Quidah 1444, corresponding to 24 May 2023, at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Academy with H.E. Ambassador Tariq Bakhit, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and his Special Envoy to Afghanistan, and with H.E. E. Ambassador Tariq Bakhit, Assistant Secretary General for

Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and his Special Envoy to Afghanistan, and with H.E. Mr. Muhammad Saeed Al-Ayyash, Director General of the OIC Office in Kabul. The meeting was convened to discuss the final preparations for the upcoming visit of the Ummah scholars to Afghanistan to meet with representatives of the ruling authority. The purpose of this visit is to discuss with them the latest developments related to girls' education, women's participation

in progress, and the promotion of cooperation, communication and integration among all parts of the Afghan people. This meeting follows the resolutions of the Ministerial Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States at their recent conferences, which mandated the Academy to lead a delegation of scholars to visit Afghanistan. It should be noted that a delegation of scholars from the Ummah already visited Kabul last year and this visit is a continuation of the previous one. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohamed Chouk, Director of Cabinet and Judicial Affairs, and Mr. Mohamed Al-Fihri, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs.



## Secretary General gives a lecture on need for humanities in Ijtihad and Ifta



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustpha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, delivered a lecture on “The Need for Humanities in Ijtihad and Ifta in the Current Era”, in the first scientific session of the international symposium organized by the Foundation entitled “Teaching Human Sciences in Institutions of Religious Higher Education: The Present and the Future,” on Tuesday, 26 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 16 May 2023, at the institution’s headquarters in Rabat. He began his lecture by extending his sincere thanks and appreciation to those in charge of Dar Al-Hadith Al-Hasaniya Foundation for their warm welcome, and for their successful organization of this important scientific symposium in the present era, praising the importance of the topic and the necessity of multiplying similar seminars and conferences that aim of enhancing awareness of the importance of the humanities. He then spoke of the concepts of his lecture, in which he emphasized that “both Ijtihad and issuing fatwas have become an industry and a task that cannot be practiced by anyone. The scholars of Usul and Maqasid went on early in history with the codification of sciences to surround it with a solid fence of conditions and controls that prevent it from being compromised. Sometimes, with the tools of ijthad and fatwas at other times, and with the mechanisms of ijthad and fatwas at other times..” His Excellency then explained that the Sharia ruling has three pillars, which are the Lawgiver represented in the Quran and the Sunnah and the evidence that derives from them known as sub-evidence, or rational evidence, and the second pillar is meant by the person who is charged, and as for the third pillar, it is the one who is judged in it, and it means the act that is the subject of the assignment. His Excellency added, saying that the intended goal of diligence and fatwa is “to achieve a trustworthy link between the Revelation from the Sky and the reality on earth, and to enable man to carry out the duty of succession and prospering the universe,” which means that the subject of each of the two , ijthad and ifta, revolves around understanding the text (the revelation = the ruler), understanding the human being (= the one who is judged = the one charged), and understanding the reality (= the one who is judged or by it = the subject of the assignment), and that is for the sake of “ Ensuring human compliance with what was brought by the Revelation (= the sacred text), and ensuring the excitement of reality with its lofty teachings, in order to ward off the specter of conflict and contradiction between the text

and the human being on the one hand, and between the text and reality on the other hand. His Excellency pointed out that “the one who meditates on the tools and instruments considered by the former scholars of usul and maqasid as the most important conditions for practicing the industry finds most of them knowledge and sciences that enable the listener to understand the text with a rational and graceful understanding; As for those knowledge and sciences that enable him to understand man, they are sober and solid in parallel, we think that they did not receive the same proper care, nor that desired care, in order to root their foundations and liberate their contents, just as we think that the desired attention and the expected liberation of these knowledge and sciences that enable him to understand The reality that is intended to be adapted and subjugated to the will of the honorable Lawgiver has not yet obtained what it deserves in terms of rooting, analysis, and investigation. Therefore, we call from here, from the well-established Dar Al-Hadith Al-Hasaniyya Foundation, to the necessity of reconsidering the classification of the sciences and tools of ijthad and fatwas so that it becomes an objective, balanced and reliable classification. With the sciences and knowledge that helped to understand the sacred text as sciences and knowledge for Ijtihad and fatwas, and also relied on the sciences and knowledge that helped to understand man, and to understand reality in a sound, sober understanding that was no less deep and accurate than the previous



ones, and that was to ensure a safe and effective usage of the requirements and significance of the text that is fixed on man and the reality..” With regard to the first type of science and knowledge, it is represented by what is known as the legitimate sciences and knowledge, and the knowledge of the Arabic language as well, the knowledge of the roots of religion, the science of hadith, the science of jurisprudence, the science of difference = comparative jurisprudence, and the knowledge of purposes/maqasid. As for the second type of sciences and knowledge, it is represented in those sciences and knowledge that are labeled with human sciences and knowledge..”And he added that “enabling ijthad and issuing fatwas to bring about the desired and sustainable change in man and reality today requires mastering the basic principles that make up those sciences and knowledge, and also requires his saturation with the major theories that organize them, in addition to the need to supervise the curricula and the research tools in it that are equivalent to the methods of inference and deduction.” And he also added: “The implication of this proposed classification of the sciences and knowledge of the fiqh and fatwa is the need to overcome that

schizophrenia between religious sciences and human sciences, and the need to carry out a prudent and honest review of the curricula and courses so that they become curricula capable of preparing an empowered and balanced generation of scholars and thinkers who understand the sacred text (= revelation = Example) They are sober, and they understand the human being and the reality that affects him and is affected by him. Our basis for this call, is what the reader may find in many books and works that talked about the conditions of ijthad and issuance of fatwas, from the firm belief that their masters have knowledge of reality as one of the conditions of ijthad, and knowing people well is a condition of issuing fatwas. However, one does not find in the midst of that analysis and elaboration of those sciences and knowledge specific to these two knowledges. He then explained that “the predecessors have their excuse for not stating the sciences and knowledge called sciences and human knowledge within the sciences and knowledge of Sharia, given that these sciences and knowledge were not codified in their eras, which made it impossible to stipulate them at that time. For our current era, that excuse is no longer acceptable, because these knowledge and sciences are today written, available and facilitated for learning and furthering, which nullifies with it every excuse or reluctance to not stipulate them..” Therefore, today the human sciences should be relied upon as one of the conditions for ijthad and fatwas in our present era, as they are sciences that provide a reasonable explanation for the phenomena surrounding man in their various manifestations and formations, as they are available on specific research methods and tools for a good understanding of reality, and for an understanding of duty in reality without affectation; and of course, it goes without saying that it is not required of the one who practices ijthad and issuing fatwas to reach the degree of specialists in all the knowledge and sciences mentioned by the scholars of the Fiqh principles and maqasid, whether to know the text or to know the reality and know the human being, but it is sufficient for him to master the basic principles of them, and that is according to all of them sciences, instruments and means, not just sciences of purposes, as Ibn Khaldun pointed out in his introduction..” His Excellency concluded his lecture by stating that the need for human sciences by both the mujtahid and the mufti is considered one of the most important acts of worship, in order to achieve the objectives of his Ijtihad and fatwa, which is to achieve the predominance of religion over reality, and to guide life with the teachings of Sharia based on balance, coherence, harmony and stability.



## Governor of Indonesian Province of Riau visits Secretariat General of the Academy



H.E. Dr. Indus Haj Shamswar, Governor of the Province of Riau in the Republic of Indonesia, and the accompanying delegation visited the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah, on Thursday 21 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 11 May 2023, and were received by H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano, Secretary General of the Academy. His Excellency welcomed his honourable guest and the accompanying delegation, thanked him for his visit, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Indonesia for its support to the Academy and its willingness to strengthen cooperation, communication and partnership, and reassured his guest of Indonesia's importance as the largest Muslim country in the world and a founding member of the Academy. His Excellency then gave an overview of the Academy, its activities and achievements, carried out in the recent period, and the

developments it has witnessed, noting in this regard the prestigious position and great appreciation that the Academy receives from the OIC Member States, as it is the leading contemporary jurisprudential reference for



the Ummah, with its membership consisting of the leading scholars and jurists of the Ummah representing the eight schools of Islamic law. On this occasion, His Excellency called for strengthening Indonesia's

role in the Academy by appointing a new member representing Indonesia. For his part, the Governor of Riau expressed his honour and thanks for visiting the Academy and told His Excellency that the purpose of this visit is to strengthen the strong fraternal relations and fruitful cooperation with the Academy and to take advantage of it to address many local and regional issues. His Excellency also expressed his appreciation for the work of the Academy in his country, especially in the field of Islamic education and economics in Riau Province, Indonesia. His Excellency hence gave a brief overview of the Muslim-majority province of Riau in Indonesia, which is one of the centres for the development of the Islamic economy and halal industry in Indonesia. His Excellency also expressed his aspiration for more strategic partnerships with the Academy, to make the most of the Academy's resolutions issued by the leading scholars of the Ummah, especially in the field of halal industry, and to establish a benchmark for teaching and research on the Holy Qur'an, Hadith and Islamic economics in Southeast Asia. The meeting was attended by Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar, Director of the Studies and Research Department, and Mr. Mohamed Walid Al-Idrisi, Director of Media and IT at the Academy.



## Consul General of Gabon and Dean of African Group Consuls visits the Academy



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha, Secretary General of the Academy, received the Dean of the Consuls General of the African Group in Jeddah, H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Branly Opoulou, Consul General of Gabon, on Tuesday 19 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 09 May 2023, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed his guest, thanked him for his visit and expressed his gratitude to the Gabonese Republic for its continuous support to the Academy, then His Excellency

discussed with his guest who in turn expressed his pleasure and honor to visit the Academy and thanked the Secretary General for this warm welcome. The Consul General conveyed to His Excellency the generous invitation, on behalf of the African Group of Consuls General accredited in Jeddah, to receive him as a guest of honor during the celebration of the 60th Africa Day, which will be held at the end of May 2023 in Jeddah, and that His Excellency is welcome to deliver



a speech on that occasion. His Excellency thanked the Consul General for this honor, and promised to honor him, praying Allah to grant him much success in his duties. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohmmmed Al-Chouk, Director of Cabinet and Protocols of the Academy.



## African Consuls General present the Shield of Merit and Excellence to the S.G.



On the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the African Union, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, was awarded a Shield of Merit and Excellence during this year's Africa Day celebration, in recognition of the quality reforms and profound changes he has brought about since his ascension as Secretary General of the Academy, and as the first non-Arab African to hold this position since the founding of the Academy. After presenting the award to His Excellency, on behalf of the consuls general, H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Branly Opolo, Head of the African Consular Service, Consul General of the Gabonese Republic in Jeddah, declared: "H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano is the guest of honor at this celebration, as we have decided to award him the Shield of Merit and Excellence to express our sincere respect for this honorable person, and our high appreciation for the reforms, changes and developments that have been introduced since he assumed the position of Secretary General of the Academy in 2020. We also express our full support for His Excellency and our commitment to him to enable him to continue to honour Africa with his outstanding achievements, and to show the world that

the African continent is full of talented, distinguished and creative men like him. We are proud of him, and we are very pleased with what he is doing with his knowledge and his position, clear and innovative reforms". For his part, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Sano spoke on this occasion to a large crowd gathered in a magnificent hall, including consuls general representing 54 African countries and a number of Africans residing in Jeddah, and said: "In fact, I am deeply honored and filled with



gratitude and appreciation to all of you for this great and generous honor. This night will certainly remain etched in our memories. Allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you, and in particular to you, my dear brother, Your Excellency, the Consul General of the Gabonese Republic, to the Consul General's companions, and to all the guests, friends of Africa, and all the African citizens who are present with us. It's true that I must work assiduously and sincerely to deserve this great trust you have placed in me this evening. I take this great opportunity to say loud and clear that we Africans must firmly believe that our country is the continent of the future, the continent of humanity, the continent of fraternity, the

continent of peace and serenity, and that is why we need human resources and natural resources. Future developments require nothing more than strengthening cooperation between countries, reinforcing solidarity between peoples, and investing in youth and courageous men and women. At the end of this brief speech, I would like to thank you once again, Ladies and Gentlemen Consuls General. I can also assure you that this honor is also an honor for the Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Mr. Hissein Ibrahim Taha, as the International Islamic Fiqh Academy is one of the organs of the OIC. I cannot refrain from expressing my sincere thanks to the rulers and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for this blessed country has been and will remain a friend of Africa, may it receive all the love, friendship, appreciation and respect it deserves. May Allah protect us all and bless us with his grace. Thank you." The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was represented by H.E. Ambassador Adnan Murad, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia in the Makkah region, and H.E. Ambassador Ahmed bin Dhafar, Secretary of Royal Protocols in the Makkah region, as well as a large number of Consuls General from Europe, Asia and America.



## IIFA participates in Experts Group Meeting on OIC Plan of Action on Disabilities



The Academy participated in the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 01 Dhul Qui'dah 1444, corresponding to June 21/2023, 22-. The Academy was represented by Ms Sara Amjad Bedwi, Director of Family, Women, Children, Elderly and Disabled, and Dr Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of International Cooperation and External Relations Division. Statements were made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as Chairman of the forty-ninth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the representative of Turkey as Chairman of the Ministerial Conference on Social Development respectively on the importance of the Action Plan to develop an action plan that will integrate people with disabilities in OIC

member countries at socio-cultural, educational and political levels. This was followed by a welcoming remark from the Secretariat General to get enriching feedback from delegates and representatives before finalizing the document or submitting it to the Ministerial meeting. The draft action plan was prepared by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC). The Action Plan includes an overview of the OIC Action Plan, highlighting the timeliness of this document to address the issues of inequality and challenges faced by people with disabilities, and to develop a comprehensive action plan to address these challenges in socio-economic life and increase their participation in the development of their societies and communities. It is hoped that the action plan will serve as a roadmap for policy-makers to coordinate efforts and share knowledge and experience between member states on improving the situation of people with disabilities in relation to international initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals. The action plan also includes the general principles of diversity, life-course approach, inclusion, human dignity and multi-sectoral approach. The action plan stresses the many challenges faced by people with disabilities in OIC

countries, including weak institutions and insufficient financial resources. The plan focuses on social, economic, health and cultural challenges. Accordingly, the Action Plan outlines a number of areas for action, including education, health, economic integration, governance and the creation of an enabling environment, as well as the articulation of Islamic values that emphasize respect for diversity and inclusion. Following SESRIC's presentation of the Action Plan, representatives of member countries and OIC institutions made interventions and comments on various aspects of the project. The representatives of the Academy thanked the OIC General Secretariat for the kind invitation, reiterating the paramount importance of this Action Plan and expressing the Academy's willingness to work in collaboration with the OIC and its other institutions to implement the aforementioned Action Plan in its Strategic Plan when approved accordingly. The Academy delegation drew the attention of the honourable representatives to Resolution No. 213 (922/) issued by the Academy at its 22nd session held in Kuwait from 2 to 5 Jumada al-Akhirah 1436, corresponding to March 22/2015, 25- concerning the rights of people with disabilities in Islamic jurisprudence.

## Secretary General speaks on Digital Assets at AAOIFI Conference in Manama



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, participated on Monday 18 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 8 May 2023, in a roundtable discussion on “Digital Assets and Islamic Banking”, which was part of the 21st AAOIFI Shariah Council Conference, recently held in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. His Excellency began his speech by defining what is meant by the term “digital assets” which refers to anything that can be stored and transmitted electronically via a computer or any other digital device, and which is linked to ownership or usage rights. In other words, assets, benefits and property rights stored in digital form. This perception applies to paintings, documents and photographs, as well as to what are now known as digital currencies of different types. His Excellency clarified the situation by stating “The Shariah ruling regarding these and other new transactions, whether a permissibility or a prohibition, must be based on the general texts of Shariah, its general maxims and objectives. The general principle is permissiveness, and the principle in transactions is particularly permissiveness, and the Sharia texts contained on transactions are flexible texts that allow for Ijtihad and Tajdid in every time and place. The concept of “wealth/maal” in Islam applies to goods, benefits and rights, and it also applies to digital goods, as they are not without being representative of goods, benefits

or rights, which means that the digitization is now considered to be one of God Almighty’s bounties and facilitations to us in our time, as it has now become one of the most important and effective means we use to preserve money and property, and no one can attack or control it without our permission, and until recently we used to carry our money and coins with us, then our paper money, and now, thank God, we don’t need to carry that money which has become stored in codes and forms in computers and wristwatches. This is why we should no longer talk about the legitimacy of these modern means, but rather about how to take advantage of them and enable them to achieve legitimate objectives in the field of transactions, by subjecting them to Sharia rulings and controls”. His Excellency went on to talk about the types of digital assets, explaining that they are divided into two types, namely, “Digital assets that represent real assets transformed into digital codes and forms, such as logos, paintings and other assets that are actually rights held by their owners, and rights are a type of money, and all other types of money apply to them.” The rulings on wealth in Islamic jurisprudence, and as for the second type of digital assets, these are digital currencies, particularly cryptocurrencies, which are the subject of continuous debate on their Sharia ruling in terms of permissiveness or prohibition.” His Excellency pointed out that there are three types of crypto-currency: “Firstly,

cryptocurrencies that are backed by local paper currencies such as the dollar, euro, dinar and riyal, and there is no dispute that their rulings is the same rulings as of the currencies they represent, and secondly, cryptocurrencies backed by precious commodities or metals, and there is also no legal divergence in the ruling of this first type; As for the third type, these are decentralized cryptocurrencies which are not subject to the jurisdiction of any government or state, and have today become a new means of exchanging benefits and a mediator for transactions.” His Excellency explained that



the position of Sharia ruling in this type of case requires the need to differentiate between currencies and their areas of use and circulation, and the fact that it is not subject to the jurisdiction of the ruler or official authorities does not mean that it is not subject to the will of a ruler, because the ruler has the right to set conditions and controls for its use or movement within the borders of his country, and each individual must comply with these rules, controls and conditions. The dialogue was moderated by H.E. Mr. Shaher Abbas, Founder of IFN and it was well received by the attendees who had a chance to interact with H.E. Sheikh Dr. Kahlan Al Kharusi, Assistant to the Grand Mufti of Oman, and H.E. Dr. Yusuf Sultan, Executive Director of Adli Corporation, who also participated in the conference.



## Head of International Cooperation represents IIFA at OIC Expert Meeting for Protection of Cultural Heritage in Muslim World



H.E. Dr. Alhagi Manta Drammeh, Head of the International Cooperation and External Relations Division represented the Academy at the Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting on the Establishment of an OIC Platform for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Muslim World on 2627- Shawal 1444, corresponding to 1617- May 2023, at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation headquarters in Jeddah. The idea of protecting and preserving cultural heritage in OIC member states dates back to the 1980s, with the creation of the OIC Commission for the Preservation of Islamic

Cultural Heritage as a subsidiary body and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture as an executive body. The session of this committee was later merged with that of IRCICA in 2000. The Council of Foreign Ministers held in Niger on November 27 and 28, 2020, in its resolution 1047-/C, requested the OIC Secretariat General to implement the resolution on the establishment of the OIC Platform in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions. Accordingly, the May 16-17 meeting was convened to recommend the status, modalities, composition, scope, themes, tasks and operation of the platform. The opening session began with remarks from the representatives of the Foreign Session of the Council of Islamic Ministers, who welcomed the representatives of OIC member countries and representatives of OIC institutions. The IRCICA representative spoke of the project progress to create the platform and the consultations that had

led to the preparation of the action plan. The ICESCO representative spoke of the important role of its Heritage Centre. Furthermore, IRCICA Secretariat General spoke about the legal basis for the creation of the platform, including the resolutions of the ministers and summits and the results of the workshops and conferences, held in 2017 and 2019 respectively. Several interventions were made by representatives to enrich the report before its submission to the Council of Foreign Ministers meeting to be held in Cairo in June 2023. The representative of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy conveyed the best regards of the Academy’s Secretary General to the participants, appreciating the idea of establishing the Platform, and thus transmitted the Academy’s willingness to contribute to the establishment of such a platform from a Sharia point of view, being the main reference in the matter.

## IIFA's media department takes part in the OIC's specialized training course



The Secretariat General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation organized a specialized training course in social media management under the title "Linguistic Management of Official Media Accounts" on 45- Dhul Quida 1444H corresponding to May 24, 2023, at the OIC Secretariat General in Jeddah. The

training was attended by Mr. Muhammad Al-Idrisi, Director of Public Relations and Media, and Mr. Saad Al-Sammar, Head of the Media Division at the Academy. The objective of this specialized course was to develop participants' skills in preparing and writing content for social media accounts for official institutions based on media and linguistic considerations and to manage them effectively, in addition to acquiring the necessary skills in preparing content for social media accounts, as well as the mechanisms of persuasion (linguistic and non-linguistic), and how to improve editing social media content. At the end of the training, H.E. Ambassador Tariq Bakhit, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Community Affairs, and H.E. Dr. Ibrahim bin

Muhammad Abanmi, Deputy Secretary General of King Salman Global Academy for the Arabic Language, issued certificates to the participants approved by the OIC Secretariat General and King Salman Global Academy for the Arabic Language.



## 30th Monthly Meeting of the Academy's Personnel

On Sunday, 17 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 07 May 2023, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the thirteenth monthly meeting of the Academy's personnel at the Secretariat General in Jeddah. He opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking them for their discipline and full commitment to the Academy's regulations, especially the regular participation in the periodic meetings. He also took the opportunity to congratulate all employees on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, asking Allah to accept our fasting, prayers and good deeds. As it is customary in this kind of meeting, His Excellency allowed all the employees



to express their opinions about the work and progress of the Academy, as well as their suggestions for the advancement of the Academy and the development of its performance. His Excellency listened with interest and concentration to the remarks,

suggestions, and requests of a number of employees, calling on everyone to continue to show a spirit of cooperation and brotherhood, while making maximum efforts to carry out the Academy's activities and programs. The meeting made several decisions, notably:

- Distribute the strategic plan progress report to employees in order to present their opinions and comments for discussion at the next meeting.
- Study the status of employees whose residence cards are under the Ministry of Interior to try to transfer them to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Create a new WhatsApp group for Academy employees.

## 99th Weekly Meeting of Departments



H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the ninety-ninth weekly meeting of the departments on Monday 11 Shawal 1444 corresponding to 1st May 2023. He opened the meeting by extending his congratulations on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, asking the Lord to bless everyone's fasting, prayers and good deeds and to return it to us and the Ummah in the best of returns, and may He grant security and prosperity to our Ummah. He expressed his condolences on Professor Abdulwahab Abu Suleiman, former member of the Council of Senior Scholars and Academy member, who passed away on the 26th Ramadan 1444, corresponding to 17th April 2023, after a scholarly career rich in knowledge. He then talked about his official visit to the Republic of Iraq aimed at strengthening the relations of cooperation and integration with

the main scientific and religious institutions in the Republic of Iraq, during which he met with the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Parliament and a number of political and religious figures, and also gave lectures at Abu Hanifa Mosque and the Grand Imam College. He also talked about the signing of a MoU between the Council and the Iraqi Fiqh Academy, as well as between the Academy and the Sunni Waqf Fund. He also talked about his visit to the Shiite Waqf Fund and his meeting with the Executive Director. He then spoke about his participation in the Hassani Lectures in the Kingdom of Morocco, under the patronage of HM King Mohammed VI, as well as his participation in the Hashemite Lectures in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where he gave a lecture on Imam al-Nawawi, may Allah have mercy on him. He also discussed the five-year strategic plan for the Academy and asked all directors to review the plan with the employees of their departments and submit a detailed report on what has been achieved. The meeting discussed the decisions issued by the previous meeting, and several new decisions were issued, notably:

- Sending letters of thanks to the Consul

General of the Republic of Iraq, the President of the Republic, the Speaker of the Parliament, the Prime Minister, the Head of the Sunni Foundation, the President of the Shia foundation, the President of the Iraqi Fiqh Academy, the Dean of the Grand Imam College, and the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco, the President of the Higher Scientific Council of Morocco, and the Jordanian Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places.

- To start calling for participants to the scientific symposium entitled: The use of breast milk for premature babies, in cooperation with the Islamic Organization of Medical Sciences, and with the participation of Academy's members and experts.
- Transcribing the audio recordings of the twenty-fifth session

## 100th Weekly Meeting of Departments

H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the 100th weekly meeting of the departments on Tuesday 19 Shawal 1444 corresponding to 09 May 2023, at the Secretariat General in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed the participants and thanked them for their commitment to the weekly meetings, noting that this meeting is the 100th meeting, and that these meetings have enabled the Academy to progress and strengthen the principle of transparency, and to put all new issues on the table through discussions to express opinions and appropriate solutions, and to facilitate communication and exchange of information with full transparency and follow-up of the various works and activities. His Excellency confirmed the date of the coming symposium entitled: Breastfeeding

of premature babies with milk from known and unknown mothers, which will be held at the end of May, stressing the need to start early preparations and called on all departments to cooperate to ensure the success of this symposium. His Excellency also talked about the visit of a delegation of Ummah's scholars to Afghanistan, under the leadership of the Academy, with the aim of discussing and dialoguing with Afghan officials and scholars on the previous issues in order to reach practical resolutions that will be beneficial to the Afghan people, especially girls' education and women's work. The meeting discussed the previous decisions and several new decisions were made, notably:

- Sending a reminder to countries that have not paid their contributions,



- and to countries that are in arrears.
- Transcribing the audio recording of the 25th session and completing it by early July.
- Drafting a memorandum of cooperation between the Academy and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf of the Kingdom of Morocco.
- Drafting a new blueprint for the Academy's Zayed Fiqh Encyclopedia with a new title.

## 46th Periodic Meeting of Divisions



H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary General of the Academy, chaired the forty-sixth periodic meeting of the heads of divisions at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Academy in Jeddah on Thursday, 21 Shawal 1444, corresponding to 11 November 2023. His Excellency greeted the heads of divisions and thanked them for their regular

participation in these important periodic meetings to ensure the full completion of the Academy's activities and programmes, and then spoke about the medical fiqh symposium that the Academy will organize on the topic of "Breastfeeding of Premature Babies: With milk from known and unknown mothers" at the end of May 2023, so he called on everyone to cooperate and make more efforts to prepare this symposium well with the rest of the departments, based on the values that call for productivity, cooperation and integration in order to achieve the desired results. His Excellency also showed the importance of institutional work in the different activities of the march and the depersonalisation/ decentralisation of actions and responsibilities.

After the participants discussed the points of the meeting, a number of new decisions were taken, including:

- Expedite the completion of the revision of the first edition of the "Dictionary of the biographies of the Academy's members", adding the full bibliography of each member's biography.
- Review the research for the symposium "Family Foundations: Challenges and Prospects".
- Prepare a weekly statistical report on the number of visitors to the Academy's website by day, week and month.
- Upload the documentary film to the Academy's website and social media.

## 14th Joint Meeting of Departments and Divisions

The Secretary General of the Academy, H.E. Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, chaired the fourteenth joint weekly meeting of departments and divisions on Monday, 02 Dhu al-Quida 1444, corresponding to 22 May 2023, at the Academy's headquarters in Jeddah. His Excellency welcomed the participants and thanked them for their participation in the meeting, indicating that this meeting will be a joint meeting between the departments and divisions to follow up the preparations progress of the symposium scheduled for the end of this month entitled: Breastfeeding of premature babies with milk from known



and unknown mothers. His Excellency urged the committees working in session to work in the same order at the symposium and urged them to work together across departments and divisions and to cooperate in order to make the symposium a success. His Excellency then listened to the opinions

and suggestions of the employees regarding the preparations for the symposium. The following decisions were made at the end of the meeting:

- To review the research papers and ensure that they address the required themes, so that they can be approved in their final form for printing.
- Book and send participants' tickets directly to those who have been granted visas.
- Prepare a media coverage plan similar to that of the previous symposium.

General Supervisor

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